GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2886
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2002
REMAINS OF SHIVA TEMPLES IN SURGUJA
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ruins of numerous Shiva temples have been discovered in Surguja, Meheshpur;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the ASI for conservation of the remains;

(c) whether the Ramgarh hills in Surguja district are one of the largest archaeological sites of the World; and

(d) the steps taken by the ASI to extensively excavate the said site?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The ruins of the Shiva, Vaishnava and Jain temples have been noticed at Maheshpur, Distt. Surguja and the Department of Archaeology and Culture, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, is taking steps for the protection of the remains.

(c) It is not true that the Ramgarh Hill is one of the largest archaeological sites in the world.However, there are many natural caves two of which namely, Sitabangra and Jogimara, are the protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India.

(d) However, there is no proposal for the present for undertaking excavation at the site.